



Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Select Committee on
Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In a letter to you dated 21 January, Deputy Director Knoche outlined proposed procedures for reports to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on CIA activities that raise questions of legality and propriety, similar to reports to the Intelligence Oversight Board. Mr. Knoche also outlined proposed procedures for reports to the Committee concerning possible violations of federal law previously referred to the Department of Justice. We have discussed these proposed procedures, including particular modifications that you requested in your letter to me of 3 March, with members of the Committee staff and with the White House and the Department of Justice. On the basis of these discussions, I believe the procedures as set forth below, which are agreeable to the White House and the Department, will meet your expressed requirements for timely information on CIA activities reported to the IOB and the Attorney General.

Within a month after any report has been furnished to the IOB by the Agency's Inspector General or General Counsel, these officials will inform the Committee Staff Director in writing as to the general nature of the items reported, unless the Agency is instructed to the contrary by the President. Items of urgent interest, or having a potential for serious damage or embarrassment to the Agency, will be brought to the Staff Director's attention as soon as possible, without waiting for the 30-day period to elapse. To the extent that the Committee or the Staff Director may be interested in pursuing further any item reported to the Committee, the Inspector General or the General Counsel, as the case may be, will be available to provide additional information. Should the President instruct the Agency not to report on a particular activity to the Senate Select Committee, the Agency will inform the Committee only of the fact of the President's instruction and will defer to the White House with respect to any questions as to the subject of the withheld report.

NOTE SECRET ENCLOSURE

With respect to matters reported to the Attorney General involving possible violations of law, the Agency's General Counsel will submit quarterly a statement indicating the number and types of possible offenses reported during the preceding quarter without, however, identifying potential offenders. In cases of serious allegations, such that disclosure would be damaging or embarrassing, notification of the referral to the Attorney General along with a brief description of the issue will be provided to the Committee prior to and in addition to the regular quarterly submission. However, in order to avoid interference with the rights of individuals or the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the Department of Justice, I do not believe the Agency should be called upon to provide details of ongoing investigations or to attempt to advise the Committee of the disposition of potential offenses previously reported to the Department. Disclosures of this nature are more appropriately within the discretion of the Attorney General, with whom I have discussed this point. Accordingly I request that the Agency be relieved of the commitment made in Mr. Knoche's letter to you of 21 January, insofar as that commitment pertains to reporting about the disposition of matters previously referred to the Department of Justice.

I believe these procedures satisfy the concerns expressed by you and members of your staff and will serve the interests of the Committee and the Administration. I am enclosing summaries of quarterly reports to the IOB by the Inspector General and General Counsel dated from 30 June 1976 to 15 April 1977, as well as a statement of the number and types of offenses reported to the Attorney General in the period from April 1976 through March 1977.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1977

To Chairman Inouye

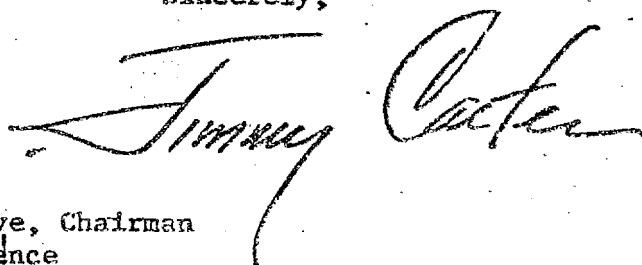
The Chairman of the Intelligence Oversight Board has reported to me on the very useful meetings which the Board had with you, Senator Goldwater, and the members of your staff following my meeting with the Board on June 8.

I want you to know that I consider abuses in the activities of any of our intelligence agencies to be of such import that I intend to deal with such matters personally. To assist me, I will rely on the Board, which as you know reports directly to me any matter which it believes raises a serious question of legality or propriety. When reports of abuses are made to me, I will have them investigated, and when corrective action is warranted, will report to your Committee the nature of the abuse and corrective action taken.

This decision was made after careful consideration of the dialogue between Admiral Turner, Mr. Knoche, and the Senate Select Committee concerning the same subject. I share with you a deep commitment toward institutionalizing effective oversight of foreign intelligence activities. I also recognize the need to keep the Committee as informed as possible. However, for the Executive branch mechanism to operate effectively, the information it receives must obviously be treated on a privileged basis.

I believe that the steps I have outlined will serve to eliminate most quickly and effectively any abuses which may in the future occur in any of our intelligence agencies and simultaneously serve to give the Senate in a timely fashion full and accurate information on what has occurred.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
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